



CATALINA ISLAND SCHOOL

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March 4, 1971

Dr. Paul Ehrlich
Department of Biological Sciences
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Ehrlich:

I recently reviewed your book Population, Resources and Environment for our social sciences teacher and found it to be quite informative and well-written. It will be used as the textbook in his 20th Century Problems course next year.

I was interested in a statement that you made concerning the possibility that chlorine or compounds thereof may be mutagens. My interest stems from my lack of information concerning the effects of various germicides on bacteria, as well as the precise biochemical make-up and physiology of bacteria. I would be interested in obtaining any information that you or Dr. Lederberg might have concerning the pathways through which various germicides act upon bacteria, and whether or not the nucleic acids themselves are affected by these chemicals. If so, it is obvious that such chemicals if they persist and are transported into food sources, etc., could pose genetic problems of consequence. *

I realize your extremely busy schedule, but this information would be most helpful to us here. If you do not have the time, I would greatly appreciate the names of other individuals who might be able to answer my questions. I am afraid that my training (Harvard, applied math and biology) leaves me unprepared in this area. Many thanks. Please say hello to Ned Groth if he is still with you.

Sincerely,

William W. Bushing

William W. Bushing
Biological Sciences

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Prof. Joshua Lederberg
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